



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1995

No. 211

House of Representatives

The House is in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1995

The Senate met at 12 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DIRK KEMPTHORNE, a Senator from the State of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, pastor of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, pastor of Saint Joseph's on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

We stand before You, O Lord, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware of Your love for us.

Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know Your will, to make it our own and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by Your wisdom, support us by Your power, keep us faithful to all that is true.

You desire justice for all; enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor.

Glory and praise to You for ever and ever. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 29, 1995.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DIRK KEMPTHORNE, a Senator from the State of Idaho, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. I thank the Senator from Idaho.

Mr. President, the time for the two leaders has been reserved, and there will be a period for morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. I do not anticipate any rollcall votes today.

I am going to make a request, but I know it is going to be objected to. I hope we can revisit it later this afternoon because most of us would like to see everybody back to work. A week ago today, we passed in the Senate by unanimous consent a proposal to deem all Government employees essential so they can go back to work and not be in violation of anything, and also pro-

vided for pay for those Federal employees.

So it is my hope that we do not have to wait until next week to resolve this. It is my understanding that we may be in session throughout the afternoon subject to the call of the Chair in the event the House should take some action on the measure we passed last week.

Yesterday, in an effort to at least get some people back to work, the Speaker and I wrote a letter to the President of the United States. It was not intended to be critical. There is nothing critical in it, because we are in the midst of budget negotiations, and we agreed not to discuss the budget negotiations. But it was our thought perhaps if we passed Interior, and State, Justice, Commerce, and HUD-VA, that would put a lot of people back to work. There are some things the President does not like in those bills. We can resolve those differences in the budget agreement. He can sign the bill and we would not need a CR to cover most of the employees not working now.

Then we have the Labor-HHS bill we have been unable to bring up because of objection on the other side of the aisle. We have had two cloture votes and lost on party-line votes.

That leaves the D.C. appropriations bill. There is a continuing resolution for the District government until January 3. And then that leaves the foreign ops bill, which we still hope to resolve. I know the Senator from Vermont has been directly involved in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

S 19301